MAY 1961
No. 5

WILDEST

Westerns

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35¢

A GREAT STORY ON

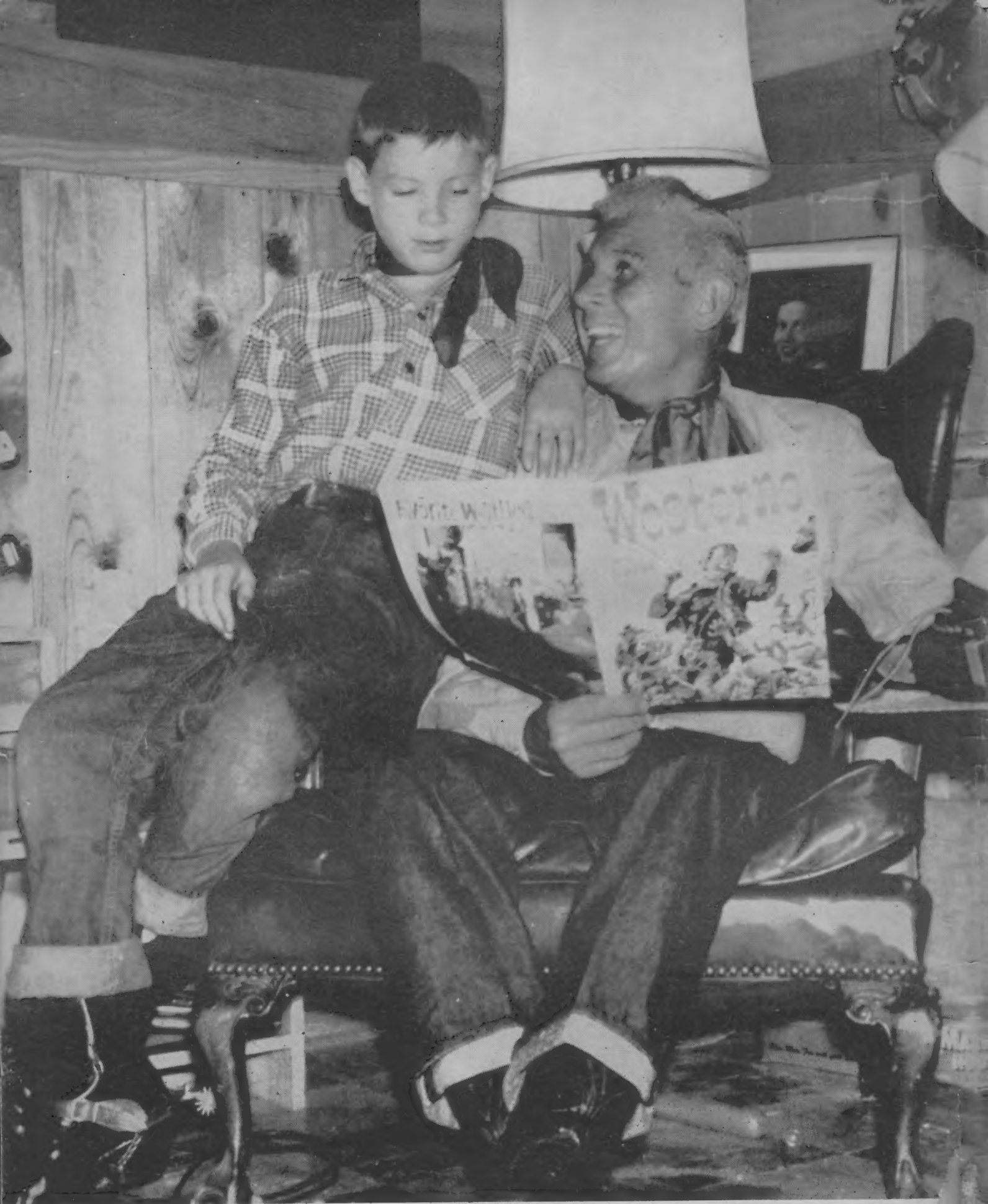
NICK THE REBEL ADAMS

ELVIS PRESLEY'S NEW WESTERN

WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT

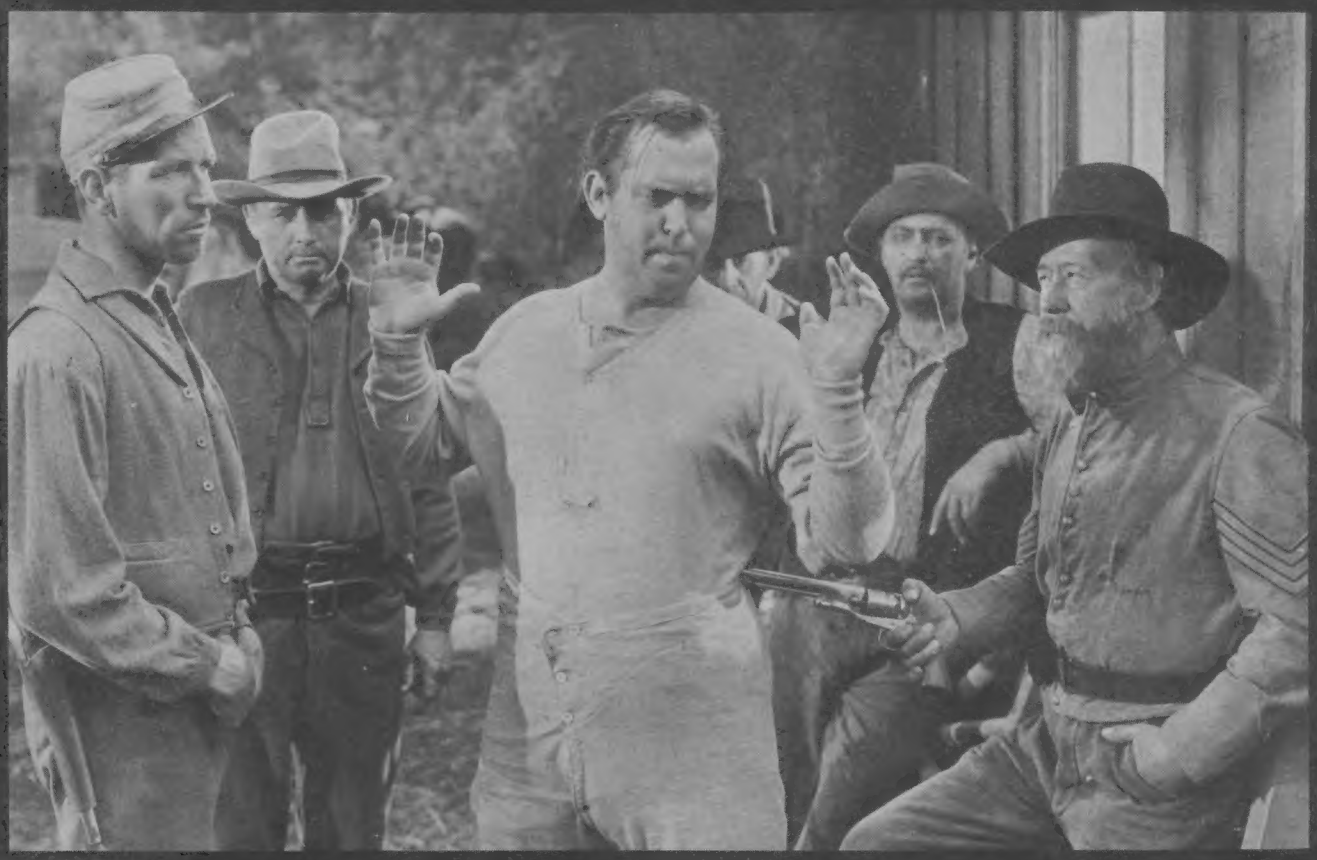
HOLLYWOOD STUNTMEN

100 UNUSUAL PHOTOS FROM WESTERN CLASSICS



Bob Livingston and son Addison enjoy reading Wildest Westerns at their ranch near Hollywood. Be sure to see WW's exclusive interview with Bob on pages 48-55.

HELD UP!



We held up the presses until we had this exclusive new issue ready.

WILDEST WESTERNS brings right to you: Exclusive on-the-set interviews with Western stars; The latest Westerns made and to be made; Often requested Classic Westerns; Past, present and future Western stars in rare photos.

Anything and everything that's interesting from the wide open spaces. Now turn the page, saddle up and hit the frontier trail.

JAMES WARREN publisher
SAM SHERMAN editor
ROBERT PRICE associate editor

"If'n Jesse says yore a'stayin' . . . yore a'stayin'."

WILDEST Westerns

MAY 1961
VOL. 1, No. 5

SAM SHERMAN
editor
ROBERT PRICE
associate editor
HARRY CHESTER
production
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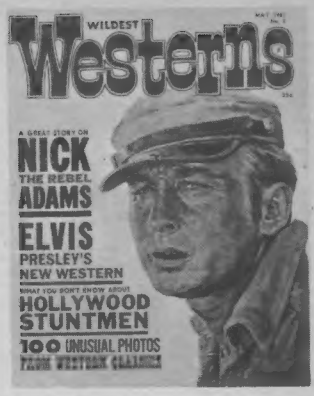

COVER: NICK ADAMS in the role of JOHNNY YUMA, THE REBEL, as seen by artist BASIL GOGOS.

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Now . . . two full pages of letters from all you folks out there who stay up till the wee hours writing us.

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Dear Remuda Charlie:

I recently discovered your magazine and want to tell you how much I enjoy the articles, particularly those on John Wayne, who I think is the best actor in the world today. I have been a Western fan all my life and now that I play THE REBEL on TV, it is sort of a fulfillment of all my dreams.

The enclosed check is for my subscription to WW. Keep those great issues coming! I'm going to have all of them bound in leather for my permanent files. . . .

Nick Adams
Hollywood, Calif.

● *Many thanks for the kind words, Nick, and I'm sure you'll like* this *issue.—R.C.*

Don't stop those terrific career articles! The ones on Buster Crabbe and Max Terhune in the last issue were swell. . . .

Allen King
Spokane, Wash.

● *See pages* 48-55 *for the full treatment on Bob Livingston, ace Western star whose biography has been oft-requested. —R.C.*

Could you please tell me the name of the actor playing the "Old Ranger" on TV's Death Valley Days? My girl friend says it's George Cleveland, but I say no. . . .

Nancy Scott
Tampa, Fla.

● *The part is handled by veteran trouper, Stanley Andrews, who, among his numerous film portrayals, is well-remembered as the villain of the first Lone Ranger serial.—R.C.*

I've watched all of Bob Baker's Westerns on TV. How old was he when he made them and did he do his own stunts?

Mervin Bedner
Chicago, Ill.

● *Leland "Tumble" Weed, known in films as Bob Baker, was born Nov.* 8, 1914 *in Forest City, Iowa. His first picture was "Courage of the West," made in* 1937 *by Universal. A real-life cowboy, he performed many of his own stunts.—R.C.*

I'm a constant reader of WW, but am still waiting for a complete story on my favorite, Bob Steele. . . .

Milt Leslie
Terre Haute, Ind.

● *We hope to remedy this in the next issue, pardner. In the meantime, I'm sure you'll find a lot of goodies in this one. —R.C.*

Great . . . your Wildest Westerns! A welcome sight to see all the old-timers again. I enjoy anything you print on stuntmen and would like to see a feature article on Dave Sharpe and Yakima Canutt.

Johnny Hagner
Los Angeles, Calif.

● *Pages* 18-25 *will be your meat then, Johnny, and another stunt story is on the fire. —R.C.*

I notice that you answer many questions sent you by readers, so perhaps you can tell me this: Are Wally Wales and Hal Taliaferro the same person? Also, did Tom Keene use any other names in the movies?

William K. King
Quincy, Ill.

● *The answer is yes to both. After playing heroes in many silent and early talkie Westerns. Wales changed his name*

to Taliaferro in the mid-30's, later becoming one of Hollywood's top character actors. Tom started in pictures under his real name, George Duryea, but soon switched to Keene for his cowboy roles. In recent years he has used the name Richard Powers in many features.—R.C.

Please feature articles or life stories on stars Kermit Maynard, Jack Perrin and Lane Chandler . . . and print a picture of Maynard in any film from the Mountie series he made in the 30's. . . .

C. Nicholls
Atlantic City, N. J.

● *Glad to oblige. Here's Kermit in all his RCMP glory. An ace stuntman, he's covered in our article, this issue.—R.C.*

Wayde Preston is my reason for watching TV and reading WW. Please run a lot of pics of him and tell me why he grew a mustache in the middle of his Colt .45 series. . . .

Gladys Raisch
Yonkers, N. Y.

● *The cookie duster was dreamed up by the powers-that-be at Warners, the idea being that Preston would look more mature as Chris Colt. —R.C.*

Dear Remuda Charlie:

I just saw a movie, "WILD BRIAN KENT" on TV. I would like to know who played the cowboy hero role. Did star Mae Clarke really do all the hard riding and riding stunts in the film and does she do Westerns today?

Franklin Joseph
Kansas City, Kan.

● *The Western star was Ralph Bellamy, now of "Sunrise at Campobello," pard. The gal, Mae Clarke learned to ride in New York's Central Park and outrode the rest of the cast on the set. Here's an action photo of her from the 20th Fox film. Mae can now be seen in plenty of new TV Westerns, so watch yore set. —R.C.*

Dear Remuda Charlie:

The Three Mesquiteers series has always been my favorite. Would it be possible to do a complete article on them like you did on the "masked riders" in the number 3 issue? Would it also be possible to somehow get this show on television again?

Terry Simon
San Francisco, Calif.

● *This is just yore issue, turn to page 34 for the complete Mesquiteers family. Good news from Hollywood tells us that the "new" 3 Mesquiteers may be racing across yore living room prairie very soon.—R.C.*

I would like to see a picture of Reb Russell. I have heard of him, but never seen any of his movies, and would like to know what he looks like. Could you also tell me the names of some of his films?

Frankie Lane
Little Rock, Ark.

● *We have little biographical information on Russell and if any readers can help us out we'd appreciate it. Reb and his horse Rebel appeared in the following Willis Kent productions: Arizona Badman, Outlaw Rule, The Man from Hell, Border Vengeance and Lightning Triggers.—R.C.*

Would like some info on Clu (Billy the Kid) Gullager, starred in NBC's The Tall Man series. . . .

Brian McIlhenny
Denver, Colo.

● *A veteran of many top TV shows, Clu is part Cherokee and was born in Oklahoma in 1934. An ex-Marine, he is married and has two children. —R.C.*

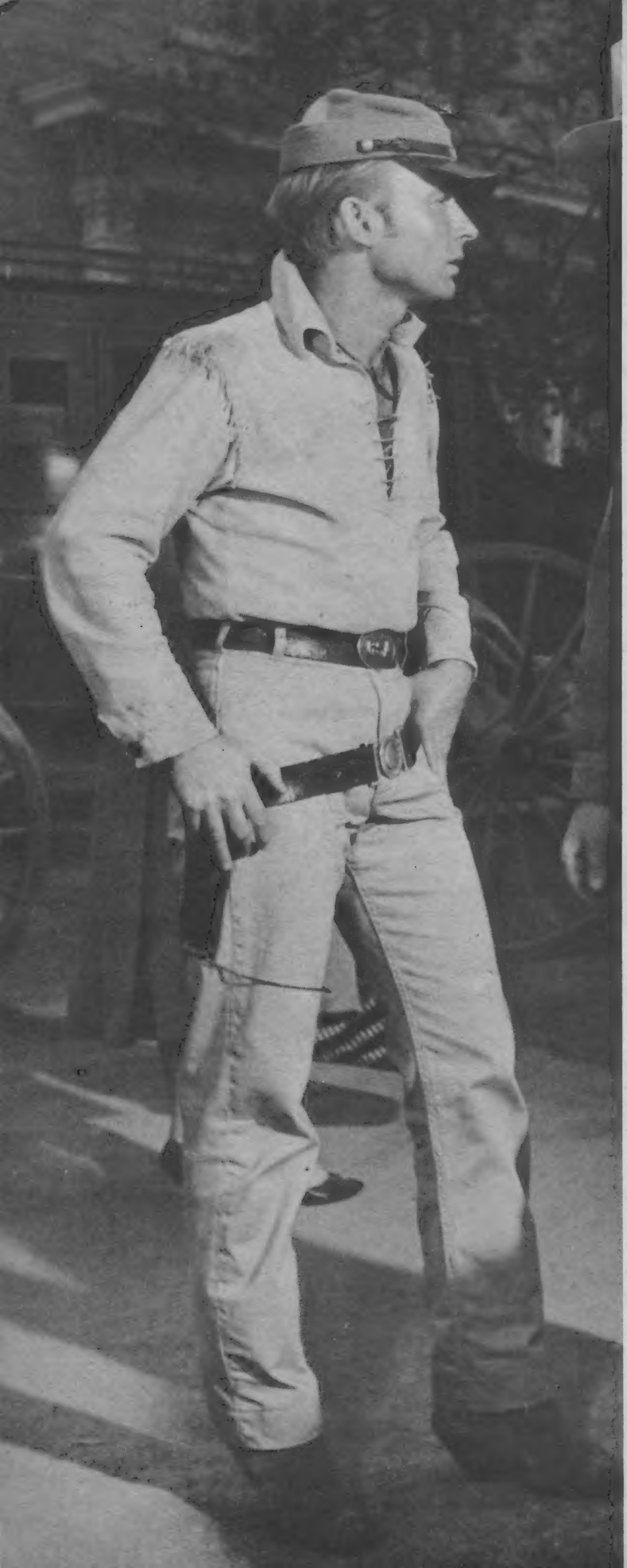
Well, pardners, we've run out of space again but there'll be lots more in the next issue. So keep sending me your letters to the big-city office in Philadelphia and they'll forward them to me on the first westbound stage. Write to:

Remuda Charlie
The Old Cowboy Editor
c/o Wildest Westerns
1426 East Washington Lane
Philadelphia 38, Pa.

NICK ADAMS THE REBEL

"Johnny Yuma was a Rebel and he roamed through the West. . ." So goes the title song each week on ABC's THE REBEL. But what few audiences realize, is that there are two Rebels on this show — Johnny Yuma and Nick Adams. For as much as Johnny Yuma WAS a Rebel, Nick Adams IS a Rebel! In his quest for success, Nick has rebelled against any and all obstacles, and today at the ge of twenty-nine, stands at the pinnacle of TV fame!

Nick Adams and Beau Hickman, the makeup artist who recreates the old west every week.



Defender with sawed-off shotgun, Johnny Yuma is a threat to TV's outlaws.

Born Nicholas Adamshock in Pennsylvania, Nick grew up in Jersey City, New Jersey, where his parents had moved when he was small. Attending Snyder High School there, he won letters in basketball, football, baseball and track. Nick had only one goal during these years—to be an actor (he had made up his mind at 14), and during his senior year he landed his first part in an off-Broadway production of "The Silver Tassie." He was recommended for the part by an actor he met at his interview. This actor also gave him a lot of good advice and suggested that Nick drop the "hock" from his last name for professional reasons. At

Trapped between crossed swords is Nick Adams in "Johnny Yuma at Appomattox."

The meeting of General Lee (George MacReady) and General Grant (William Bryant) with Johnny Yuma presiding.

the time an "unknown", this same actor became a fast friend of Adams and went on to achieve fame in motion pictures. His name? Jack Palance.

hitchhike to Hollywood

This role, though non-salaried, was a beginning, and Nick later hitchhiked to Hollywood determined to have a film career. Arriving in the film capital, he was not welcomed by open studio gates, however, and he worked at a variety of jobs until 1952, when he enlisted in the Coast Guard. Nick served until 1955.

Nick was now ready for his second attack on Hollywood and this time, he found his luck had changed. While on leave, he bluffed his way into a part in John Ford's production of the long-run stage hit, MISTER ROBERTS, which was shot in Hawaii. Working alongside such luminaries as Henry Fonda and James Cagney, Nick knew he was at last on his way.

The movie finished, Nick completed his hitch in the service and went back to working for director Melvyn LeRoy, who had wrapped up MISTER ROBERTS after Ford became ill during the filming. Under LeRoy's guidance, Nick made several films for Warner Brothers, playing a variety of roles. They included Greer Garson's

"You're sure gonna have a tough time shining these boots," beams Nick.

STRANGE LADY IN TOWN, I DIED A THOUSAND TIMES with Jack Palance, REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE (which starred his pal of pre-service days. James Dean) and OUR MISS BROOKS, spotlighting Eve Arden. He also appeared in FURY AT SHOWDOWN, an exceptional program Western released by United Artists. Nick was John Derek's brother in this one and received many good press notices for his performance.

In 1957, during a lull in film activity, Nick signed on with Elvis Presley's musical revue, contributing songs and impersonations. The latter is an Adams specialty and his repertoire includes impressions of Cagney, Cary Grant and Marlon Brando. Later this same year, the big break he had been waiting for came along and Nick landed the co-starring role in the film version of NO TIME FOR SERGEANTS. Playing a wacky Southerner, Nick showed himself to be a first class comedian, and stole scenes from no less than the old master, Andy Griffith, himself!

Johnny Yuma is born

Early in 1959, Nick teamed with two pals, producer Andrew J. Fenady and director Irvin Kershner, and together they came up with the idea for a new TV series to be call-

Johnny Yuma in an unrebellious mood with female companion.

"The Rebel" finds a tough job in a tough town.

ed YOUNG JOHNNY YUMA. This was to be a Western dealing with an ex-Confederate soldier, a young writer wandering about the West trying to find himself amid the chaos wrought by the Civil War.

Nick had done work for Dick Powell's Four Star Productions, and through this connection, the original plan was to film YOUNG JOHNNY YUMA as a segment of ZANE GREY THEATER with Nick starring and Kershner directing. Thus the three partners would have, in effect, a cost-free pilot film for their series. Before it was filmed, however, Goodson-Todman Productions heard of the idea, was interested, and agreed to bankroll the project in return for a half interest in the show. So Fenady, Kershner and Adams obtained their release from Dick Powell and, together, formed Fen-Ker-Ada, Inc., preparing to film the initial episode, this time under a new and better title, THE REBEL. Then right at this point, Nick received some alarming news!

Goodson-Todman execs knew Nick mainly for his comedy film roles and thought he wouldn't make a convincing frontier type!

Nick blew his stack! After all the preparation and his experience in many straight roles, this was too much! He told Fenady to tell the G-T people that he *was* Johnny Yuma, that he helped create the character and if he didn't play Yuma, nobody else would! In addition to telling them just that, Fenady went even further and ran off kinescopes of Nick's TV performances in serious parts. G-T was convinced, the pilot made in March, flown to the New York office in May and immediately sold to a client. The first show was telecast on October 4th and the rest is TV history.

a full cup for Nick

Now midway in its second season, THE REBEL has more viewers than ever before and Nick Adams is firmly established as a major film actor. In addition to his professional success, Nick has also found personal happiness, having married Carol Nugent, a former child actress, shortly after the sale of REBEL. Last February Allyson Lee was born and who knows, with such parents, she may someday be a star herself!

Nick Adams surveys the scene before he goes into action.

Strange as it may seem Tex Ritter even layed aside his guitar to have a go at Charlie in the Monogram sagebrusher, STARLIGHT OVER TEXAS!

Spectrum's FIGHTING DEPUTY, Fred Scott, liked to mix duty with pleasure. Note also that Fred was one of the first pioneers out West to own a wrist watch!

Favoring the strong-arm method, Bob Steele had many a tussle with Charlie in the old days, as exemplified by this scene from Supreme's SUN-DOWN SAUNDERS.

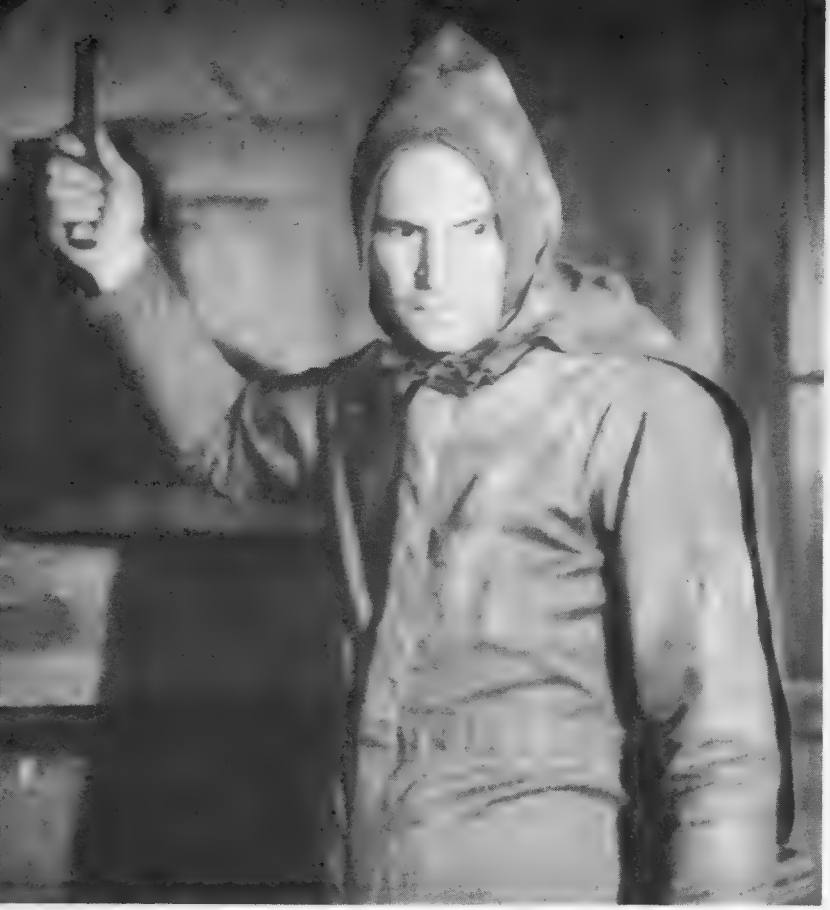
CHARLIE was a HEAVY

Anyone addicted to the old "B" program Westerns is familiar with good old pudgy Charles King—the human punching bag. And boy did Charlie take it! In the eyes, the bread-basket, on the chin, but especially in the neck! There was something about his neck that seemed to fascinate all the many stars that worked with him. Each one developed his own particular treatment for poor old Charlie's neck, and here's a few of the many techniques they employed. . . .

Charlie doesn't seem too pleased about Buster's Crabbe-Adam's-apple treatment and is apparently trying to give Bus a taste of same in this PRC production.

Considering all the factors which make Western films popular with fans, number one is, without a doubt, the personalities of the various stars, for without this basic ingredient, no fan following can be built. Running a close second, however, is the action and daredevil stunting of which no true Western buff can get enough. The perpetrators of all this mayhem are the silent and, largely, unsung heroes of the screen—

THE STUNTMEN



Yakima Canutt the screen's ace stuntman holds hero at bay in Columbia's 1937 serial "SECRET OF TREASURE ISLAND."

Canutt performing a dangerous feat of horsemanship in Republic's 1939 "COWBOYS FROM TEXAS."

While many Western stars of the past and present could do, and sometimes did, their own stunts, most of this work is relegated to the stuntmen for two very good reasons —both economic. First, should a star be hospitalized as a result of a stunt misfiring, costly delays in the shooting schedule will follow which no producer can afford. But if a stuntman is injured, he can simply be replaced by another stuntman with no loss of time. Second, and equally as important, dramatic scenes involving the star can be shot by the director at the same time the assistant or co-director of the second unit is shooting the action elsewhere, using stuntmen or doubles. This naturally cuts down the filming time, resulting in a lower production cost per picture. The latter is a practice that was always used in the making of serials.

Of all the luminaries in the realm of Hollywood stuntmen, the undisputed King and Crown Prince are Yakima Canutt, a World Champion rodeo cowboy, and David Sharpe, former Tumbling Champ. Canutt, the elder of the two, is of Indian parentage and adopted the name of the Yakima tribe as his own colorful moniker. After taking about all the Rodeo Championships a man can possibly win, Yak entered pictures in the mid-20's and proceeded to star in a long series of silent Westerns including FIGHTING STALLION, WILD HORSE CANYON, OUTLAW BREAKER and THE DEVIL HORSE. Although never achieving really great success as a Western star, his films did make money and Canutt continued to turn them out through 1929 for such companies as Goodwill and Syndicate. The coming of sound, however, marked the end of Canutt as a hero, for his poor, non-heroic speaking voice and villainous appearance forced him into supporting roles and stunt work. It was here though, that Yak really found himself, for death-defying, daredevil stunting was undoubtedly what he was born to do and he soon began carving his own niche in the wall of celluloid history.

Canutt meets Wayne

In the early 30's, Canutt doubled for many of that era's Western stars including Tom Keene, Reb Russell and Lane Chandler, and he began his long-time association with John Wayne, as friend and "double". He did all the stunts for Wayne in a whole series of Lone Star Westerns released by Monogram in 1933-35, as well as playing featured roles in most!

Bob Steele proves who's top man as he flattens Yakima Canutt in "UNDER TEXAS SKIES."

By the mid-30's, in addition to his work in features, Yak was also getting a first class workout as stuntman in many serials of the period. The stunt that was to become Canutt's specialty was being developed then. This was the one where, doubling for one star or another, Canutt would ride up behind a speeding stagecoach or wagon, transfer to the top of it, and engage the driver in fisticuffs, whereby Canutt would be knocked forward between the running horses. Yak would then drop under the horses, grab the coach as it passed over him and haul himself up to the top again, this time taking care of the driver for good! Yak performed this stunt, with variations, many times and these film clips were used as stock shots in countless films he had nothing to do with.

no. 1 stunt man

In 1935, when Monogram and Mascot merged, becoming Republic Pictures, Wayne came along as the new company's leading Western star. Naturally Yak came too, and it was here at Republic in the ensuing years that he really began building his reputation as the all-time top stuntster. Two of the greatest Western serials ever made were filmed at Republic during this period, utilizing Canutt's talent to the fullest—THE VIGILANTES ARE COMING with Robert Livingston and ZORRO RIDES AGAIN featuring John Carroll. He also continued to play featured roles, notably in films like HEART OF THE ROCKIES (1937) where he gave an outstanding portrayal of a vicious hill-billy and staged one of the longest, roughest fights on record with Bob Livingston. Later establishing a "team" of top-flight stuntmen (including Dave Sharpe), Yak went on to plan and execute some of the most memorable action sequences ever filmed.

As his work at Republic progressed, Canutt became in succession, a second unit director and then co-director, handling the action sequences on serials such as 1945's MANHUNT OF MYSTERY ISLAND. Then that same year, he was given the opportunity to direct his first feature for the company. It was SHERIFF OF CIMARRON starring Sunset Carson and was a riot of action from the first reel to the last. In the following years, Yak continued to direct a few features such as SONS OF ADVENTURE, a movie about stuntmen which, with such a director, should have been much better than it was. He then drifted away to the major studios where, as a second unit di-

The kind of death defying doubling that has won Canutt his spurs is shown in this highlight from Republic's exciting "ZORRO RIDES AGAIN."

rector, his talent for handling mass acrobatic scenes has become more and more developed on such spectacles as IVANHOE, KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE, HELEN OF TROY, BEN-HUR, and most recently, SPARTACUS.

daredevil Dave Sharpe

Whereas Canutt was basically a stuntman specializing in superb horsemanship, Dave Sharpe, although also an expert on horseback, is primarily a fighter, staging his flying leaps and no-holds-barred scenes without peer. Now 51, Sharpe was born in St. Louis but his parents soon moved to Hollywood, where Dave grew up in the shadow of the movie studios. While attending military school in his early teens, Dave began to take an interest in athletics and it wasn't long before he was representing the L.A. Athletic Club in New York, where he won the U.S. National Tumbling Championship. Dave had already entered pictures at the age of 13, his first film being SCARAMOUCHE with Ramon Novarro. He was later under contract to Fox, Paramount and Hal Roach. During the early and mid-30's, he appeared in many films including a series of 2-reel adventure pics with Flash, the wonder dog; three starring features in a "Young Friends" series for Ajax Pictures (ROARING ROADS, A SOCIAL ERROR and ADVENTUROUS KNIGHTS); and innumerable Westerns with a variety of stars.

a range buster, too

In the late 30's, Sharpe came to Republic where he worked with Canutt and began doubling for about every star on the lot. He starred in one fine serial, DAREDEVILS OF THE RED CIRCLE, before he became the stunting mainstay of practically all Republic serials in the early 40's. Occasionally during these years, Sharpe would

John Wayne gives Yak the old airplane spin in 1939's "WYOMING OUTLAW."

go over to Monogram and make a Western. All told, he starred in five first class features there—SILVER STALLION in 1940 and four Range Buster sagas with Max Terhune and John King, TEXAS TO BATAAN, TWO-FISTED JUSTICE, TRAIL RIDERS and HAUNTED RANCH, made in 1942-43. Dave enlisted in the Army before the last one was finished and he was written out of the script at the end of the second reel with the explanation that he had left to join Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders! Old-time star Rex Lease then came into the picture, filling up the trio.

After the war, Dave returned to Hollywood and resumed work, again combining stunting with occasional acting assignments. He has also done TV work doubling in the WILD BILL HICKOK and ZORRO series, and guest shots on shows like DECEMBER BRIDE. A projected, and eagerly awaited, TV series of his own, JOHNNY JUSTICE, did not materialize. In the last few years, Sharpe has drifted more and more into the sort of work now being done by Canutt. Though not yet a full-fledged second unit director, he handles the action sequences in films like THE EXILE, MARK OF THE RENEGADE, DESERT LEGION and CIMARRON KID, and coaches such stars as Tony Curtis and Charlton Heston in action technique.

wildcat trooper

Kermit Maynard is another more than worthy of inclusion in any stuntman article. Although a star in his own right, Kermit was also a first class horseman. Born in Indiana, the younger brother of Ken Maynard, like all other stuntmen, got into athletics early in life. While attending Indiana University, Kermit was named "All Western Conference" as a result of his prowess on the football field. After graduation, he went to Hollywood where, like Canutt, he enjoyed a minor success as the star of several silent Westerns such as WILD BORN (1927), being known in those days as "Tex" Maynard. He then became a double in dan-

Daredevil Davey Sharpe demonstrates the kind of punch that has placed him among the screen's top battlers.

Kermit Maynard has the situation well in hand in Ambassador's 1937 "FIGHTING TEXAN."

gerous action scenes for brother Ken and other stars. In Mascot's early talkie serial, PHANTOM OF THE WEST, he doubled for Tom Tyler and also played a featured role using the name of Kermit. Along with his doubling, Maynard took part in many rodeos and in 1933 at Salinas, California, won the title of World's Champion in Trick and Fancy Riding.

In 1935, Maurice Conn signed Maynard for a series of eighteen films to be released by Ambassador Pictures. Here Kermit really came into his own as a star, for each film was chock-full of his sensational riding stunts atop his trick horse, "Rocky". In the first ten pictures in the series, Kermit was a Northwest Mountie paired with such comedy sidekicks as Syd Saylor and Fuzzy Knight. Good films in the group were NORTHERN FRONTIER, CODE OF THE MOUNTED, TRAILS OF THE WILD and FIGHTING TROOPER. Maynard then made eight straight Westerns equally as good. They included THE FIGHTING TEXAN, VALLEY OF TERROR and GALLOPING DYNAMITE. These were to be the last of his starring vehicles and he then began playing featured parts in many Westerns for various companies and in serials like THE GREAT ADVENTURES OF WILD BILL HICKOK. Kermit may still be seen today in many TV and theatrical films and was recently featured as a guest star in Universal's comedy oater, ONCE UPON A HORSE.

"Lone Ranger"

There are, of course, many other stuntmen equally as expert in their own fields, although lesser known, such as: Richard Talmadge and Cliff "Tex" Lyons, both former stars and now second unit directors; Fred Graham, expert brawler; Slim Pickens, a former rodeo clown and expert horseman; Clayton Moore, one-time circus acrobat now portraying the Lone Ranger; Jock Mahoney and Ben Johnson, two who have made the transition from stuntman to star in recent years. WW hopes to feature all of them in a future issue.

Regardless of the risks involved, many continue to join the profession, as the remuneration is high for a top man. Dave Sharpe has been quoted as saying he can make $40,000 in a good year. And well paid they should be, these daredevils who add so much to the silver screen—Western fans owe them a lot!

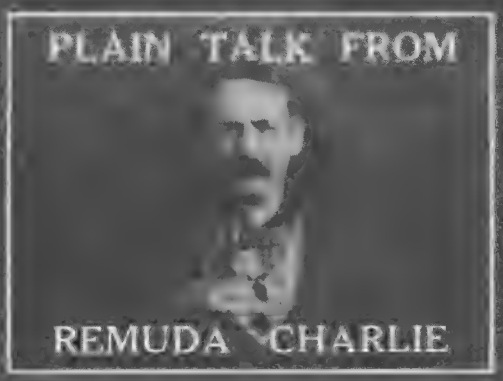
Dave Sharpe drops in unexpectedly on Eddie Dean and friend in PRC's 1946 "COLORADO SERENADE."

Did Western comedian Smiley Burnette ever play "SMILIN' JACK"?—MIKE NORMALL, BRONX, N. Y.
Here's Smiley's reaction to your question pardner.

YOU HANKERED FER IT

By Remuda Charlie

Wal, it's thet time agin, when yor ole dry gulch pal letts yew in on thuh reel facks. Jes' send yor quesshuns tuh You Hankered Fer It care of thiss here mag'zine. Ah've got wagins filled of thuh



danged interestingest pitchers fer all yew bronc busters out ther'. Yor fav'rit may be inn this here bukbored now. So lett's get tuh thuh lookin' an' cut out all this palaver.

Elmer and I enjoyed your article on us in the last issue. So here's a picture we just had taken for all the fans who have written us.—MAX TERHUNE, HOLLYWOOD, CALIF. I'm shore glad to print the picture, pard, for wranglers everywhere.

How about printing a picture of a real Indian massacre?—HARVEY GRIFFITH, ROCHESTER, N. Y. ***Hold on to yer scalp, Harv, you hankered fer it and yew got it!***

I noticed a great resemblance between cowboy stars Bob Livingston and Jack Randall; are they related? —BILLY BRONSON, DOTHAN, ALABAMA. ***Right yew are, the late Jack Randall was Bob Livingston's brother. Thass Bob on the left and yew can read all about him on pages 48-55.***

Did "THE SHADOW" in the movies (Kane Richmond) ever play in Westerns?—MARK RICHARDS, EMPORIA, VIRGINIA. ***Yup, he shore did and I bet Kane (on the right) wishes he could be invisible here.***

A TRIBUTE TO

WARD BOND

On these pages, Wildest Westerns would like to pay tribute to one of the giants of the Western screen—Ward Bond, who died of a heart attack last November at the age of 55. His death brought sadness to Western film fans the world over. Yes, it was indeed hard to believe that big, brawny, "Major Seth Adams" would no longer be leading the WAGON TRAIN across millions of TV screens each week, as he had so successfully for the past four years!

In motion pictures, Bond dated back almost to silents. It was in 1928 that director John Ford, preparing to shoot a film called SALUTE, commissioned John Wayne, then a prop man and student at the University of Southern California, to round up a group of extras for the picture. Included among Wayne's choices was Ward Bond, also a football playing student at USC. Ford gave them both parts in his movie and it marked the beginning of a life-long friendship for all three.

Ward has first aid administered by Billie Seward and Tim McCoy in Columbia's 1935 "JUSTICE OF THE RANGE."

Ward and "Duke" Wayne take a breather after staging classic battle in RKO's 1944 "TALL IN THE SADDLE."

a popular "heavy"

Later, Wayne caught the public's fancy as a Western star and Bond began developing his talents along the lines of a "heavy". In the early 30's, Ward cut his acting teeth menacing such sagebrush stalwarts as Ken Maynard, Buck Jones and Tim McCoy in a long series of Columbia oaters. As the years progressed, Bond worked his way into major films and continued to prove his acting mettle in a variety of features such as IT HAPPENED ONE NIGHT, DEVIL DOGS OF THE AIR, GENTLEMAN JIM, CANYON PASSAGE, IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE, THE UNCONQUERED, THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE, TAP ROOTS, JOAN OF ARC, RIDING HIGH, SINGING GUNS, THE GREAT MISSOURI RAID, KISS TOMORROW GOODBYE, ONLY THE VALIANT, HELLGATE, BLOWING WILD, HONDO, JOHNNY GUITAR and PILLARS OF THE SKY.

He became best known, perhaps, as a member of the "John Ford Stock Company", a title given a group of regulars, including Wayne and Henry Fonda among others, who worked in most Ford films. The list of Ford-directed features in which Bond appeared, is indeed impressive and includes such memorable screen moments as THEY WERE EXPENDABLE, MY DARLING CLEMENTINE, THE FUGITIVE, FORT APACHE, THREE GODFATHERS, THE WAGONMASTER, THE QUIET MAN, THE LONG GRAY LINE, MISTER ROBERTS and THE SEARCHERS.

when stardom strikes

Bond had never wanted to be a star and was firmly entrenched in his character roles when, in 1956, he suddenly found himself a national celebrity as the result of WAGON TRAIN, the series he had originally been reluctant to do. It is indeed ironic that after three decades in the movies, he should die just when he had reached his greatest fame.

Possessing very positive likes and dislikes, Bond was outspoken on many issues. He argued with everyone and to him it was a test of friendship. A man such as this is naturally disliked by a few, but to his close associates, he was, as John Wayne eulogized, " . . . a wonderful, big-hearted, generous man."

Ward Bond will be long remembered. **END**

Giants of the screen Ward Bond and Sterling Hayden make worthy opponents in Lippert's 1952 "HELL-GATE."

THE THREE MESQUITEERS

It was a Western thriller, 1903's "Great Train Robbery," that was responsible for quite a bit of the movie industry's expansion. So the "oaters" as some call them still continue to be the mainstay of many a film factory. Westerns have gone through many fads —ultra realistic (or sloppy) cowboys, the fancy circus-type cowboys, the singing cowboy etc. However, once all this is forgotten the main scenic-outdoor and action appeal still remains. In the early 1930's Westerns found it hard to adapt to the new "talkies." Many old silent screen cowboys lacked real voice appeal and acting talent and had a tough time regaining their places as the leading stars. The new sound Westerns had to be better than just the old crude silents plus talk. So through the early 1930's the millions who loved Westerns had to be content with amateurish productions. This presented a challenge to the industry, which was met.

While the movies were having a tough time with Westerns, one of the great Western writers was very successful with his Western novels. So William Colt MacDonald, author of the famed Three Mesquiteers stories was approached by the motion picture industry to help them out of their doldrums. The Three Mesquiteers are like Dumas' Three Musketeers "one for all and all for one." They get their name from the prairie plant Mesquite, being three famed, hard riding sons of the plains. In 1935 Normandy Pictures Corp. filmed the first Mesquiteer feature, "Law of the 45's." It only had two of the characters from the famed trio in it, being from MacDonald's first Mesquiteer book. The stars were Guinn "Big Boy" Williams as Tucson and Al

(pre-Fuzzy) St. John as Stony. This film was a very interesting action thriller but didn't attract too much attention, being an independent production. Later the same year RKO Radio figuring the Three Mesquiteers had to be Western "names" filmed "Powdersmoke Range." It starred Harry Carey as Tucson Smith, Hoot Gibson as Stony Brooke and Guinn "Big Boy" Williams, this time as Lullaby Joslin. This film also featured other oldtime favorites but proved far less than a success.

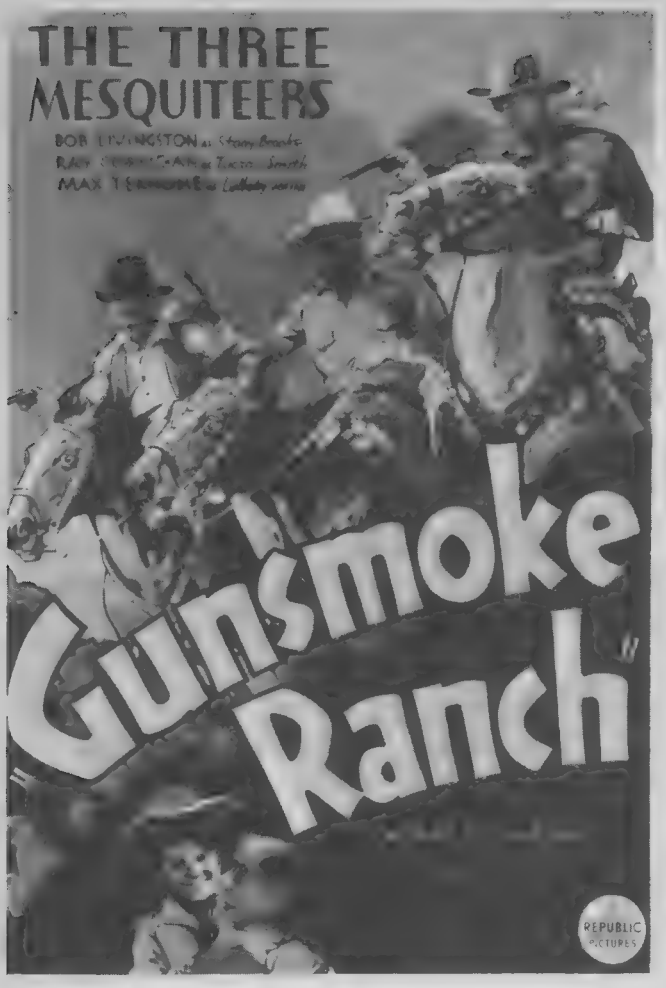
The famed "original" trio in a full blaze of glory—Max Terhune, Ray Corrigan, Bob Livingston.

the record breaking trio

In 1936 Republic Pictures started a series of eight Three Mesquiteers Westerns in which they tried to play up the three famed literary heroes not the Western "star" value alone. It worked after an unsuccessful first film, 1936's "The Three Mesquiteers," which had Syd Saylor in the comedy lead. Then the series clicked with the second picture—"Ghost Town Gold." The stars were three heroes who would now win the hearts of millions. Bob Livingston as Stony Brooke (see his exclusive interview on page 48, Max Terhune as Lullaby Joslin and Ray Corrigan as Tucson Smith. The films they made together are universally considered to make up the best Western series lensed to date. Each story was unique and all of them filmed as top productions. The motion picture industry sat up and took notice of this high quality series. All of the films were expertly photographed against the backdrop of some of the most scenic Western locations ever used in the movies. Top directors with interesting stories and extremely capable actors turned out these films which have never been equalled. The producer of this series, Sol C. Siegel, well known for quality productions, is now the vice president of MGM and produced "Ben-Hur."

every film a hit

All the pictures in this first series were instant successes. Each one containing a novel story or a very original treatment of a classic Western theme. In "Roarin' Lead" (1936) The Three Mesquiteers smash a group of frontier racketeers who are bankrupting the county orphanage. The protection of a wild horse herd from rustlers forms part of the plot of 1937's "Hit the Saddle." The rest of the story being involved with Max "Lullaby" Terhune and Ray "Tucson" Corrigan trying to prevent Bob "Stony" Livingston from marrying cafe dancer. Rita Hayworth. In "Heart of the Rockies" the scene shifts to the mountain country where the Mesquiteers stop the illegal killing of wild animals in a game preserve. 1937's "The Trigger Trio" had Ralph Byrd, then famous as Dick Tracy, taking the place of Bob Livingston who had been injured performing a dangerous stunt. This film had an unusual story about the inspection of herds contaminated with hoof and mouth disease. "Range Defenders" (1937) had the three stalwart buddies caught in the middle of a sheep and cattle range war. Scenes from this film were so excitingly filmed that



Mesquiteers posters pictured here greeted fans upon entering theatres 20 years ago.

Republic used them in their classic "Zorro Rides Again."

mysterious lost tribe

That same year "Riders of the Whistling Skull" one of the most unusual Westerns ever made was filmed as a special production in the series. The Three Mesquiteers help locate a lost Indian city guarded by the "Whistling Skull," a tremendous rock formation which produces a whistling sound due to the winds in the area. This strange, mysterious story proved a real hit with movie fans everywhere. For over twenty years each of these "first series" productions have been great favorites of many fans being "different" not cliche Westerns. The other films in this famous group are—"Gunsmoke Ranch," "Come On Cowboys," "The Purple Vigilantes," "Riders of the Black Hills," "Wild Horse Rodeo," "Outlaws of Sonora," "Heroes of the Hills" and "Call the Mesquiteers." After the production of a series like this it was only natural that Republic should try their three stars out in other roles. Bob Livingston went over

New partners Duncan Renaldo and Raymond Hatton joined Bob Livingston for a rousing third series of Mesquiteers films.

big in romantic dramas so the studios needed a replacement for the role of Stony Brooke in the Mesquiteers series.

Wayne steps in

John Wayne, who had just finished six non-Western, action films for Universal was called in as the number one Mesquiteer. He made six films with Max Terhune and Ray Corrigan—"Pals of the Saddle" (1938), "Red River Range" (1938), "Three Texas Steers" (1938), "Santa Fe Stampede" (1938) and "The Night Riders" (1939). Then Republic faced a breakup in the series. Max Terhune had contract difficulties with the studio. He didn't renew as after two more films Ray Corrigan would join him in Monogram's "Range Busters" series. To finish up the two more films with John Wayne and Ray Corrigan, Raymond Hatton was added as the third member of the trio. Together this group played in "Wyoming Outlaw" (1939)—the film that made a star out of Don "Red" Barry and "New Frontier" (1939)—the film that made a star out of Phyllis Isley, later known as Jennifer Jones. Due to this Mesquiteers series, John Wayne's talents as an actor were really noticed by many people. His next role was as "The Ringo Kid" in John Ford's "Stagecoach" the picture that made Wayne a major international star.

Livingston is back

The Three Mesquiteers series now had to

Western Aces, Bob Steele and Tom Tyler restrain fellow Mesquiteer Jimmy Dodd in a 1943 production.

be started with new actors once again. Bob Livingston, a great favorite as The Lone Ranger, returned as Stony Brooke in the role he made famous. However the other parts were changed. The characters of Tucson and Lullaby from MacDonald's original books were eliminated and two new ones added. So they were a new trio entirely. Duncan Renaldo played Rico, a Mexican Mesquiteer, and Raymond Hatton was Rusty, a different part than he had in the two Wayne films. Eight films were planned for this series but only seven were filmed. They are—"Kansas Terrors" (1939), "Cowboys From Texas" (1939), "Rocky Mountain Rangers" (1940), "Oklahoma Renegades" (1940), "Covered Wagon Days" (1940), "Pioneers of the West" (1940) and "Heroes of the Saddle" (1940). "Arizona Skies" was the film planned as number eight but never made.

Bob Steele lends a hand

1940's "Under Texas Skies" saw Bob Livingston with new partners again. Tucson Smith and Lullaby Joslin were back in the personages of Bob Steele and Rufe Davis. Livingston and Steele, veteran stars, were a real fighting pair in this series. They beat more heavies to a pulp than had been seen at Republic for quite some time. These Mesquiteers blazed through 1940 and '41 in grand style in seven thrillers including:

Hoot Gibson and Big Boy Williams play prank on Adrian Morris in scene from "POWDERSMOKE RANGE," grandaddy of all Mesquiteer films.

Bob Livingston and Rufe Davis prevent buddy Bob Steele from leaving their Mesquiteer series.

"The Trail Blazers," "Lone Star Raiders," "Prairie Pioneers," "Saddlemates," 'Pals of the Pecos" and "Gangs of Sonora." With the completion of Bob Livingston's contract at Republic they were forced to once again find a replacement for the Stony Brooke role. The tremendous popularity of the series kept the producers busy turning out new films constantly. Tom Tyler, long one of the top Western stars was sought for the Stony role. Luckily he was available to do the series and added his talent to the famed Mesquiteers trio. He made seven record breakers with pals Bob Steele and Rufe Davis in 1941-2: "Outlaws of the Cherokee Trail," "Gauchos of Eldorado," "West of Cimarron," "Code of the Outlaw," "Raiders of the Ranger," "Westward Ho!" and 'The Phantom Plainsmen." The next change in The Three Mesquiteers came in for their last six films. Jimmie Dodd, later to be known as leader of Walt Disney's "Mouseketeers" took over as Lullaby in Rufe Davis' place. The concluding films that Republic made in 1942-3 are "Shadows on the Sage," "Valley of Hunted Men," "Thundering Trails," "The Blocked Trail," "Santa Fe Scouts" and "Riders of the Rio Grande."

the great classics

In all 53 full length theatrical features were made on William Colt MacDonald's characters, a record which has never been equalled. They have been shown for 25 years and are still favorites. Quite a few famous stars received an important boost into national prominence from their roles in these films—John Wayne, Margarita Cansino (now Rita Hayworth), Phyllis Isley (now Jennifer Jones), Roy Rogers, Gale Storm, Duncan Renaldo (TV's Cisco Kid) and many others. The comedy, action, romance and other outstanding features of the films won them great acclaim from the critics of the day. Many Western trios were made to copy The Three Mesquiteers—"The Range Busters," "The Trail Blazers," "The Rough Riders," "The Texas Rangers," "The Texas Marshals" and quite a few others. The Three Mesquiteers have been imitated but never duplicated. All attempts to copy the famed trio failed.

the Mesquiteers ride again

Today, seventeen years after the last film was made The Three Mesquiteers are

The future of Western films looks bright as John Conant, Don Crabtree and Buddy Farnan are being readied for Hollywood's new Three Mesquiteers productions.

planning to hit the trail once more. An independent producer is now readying the three favorites for possible action again. These are to be "all new" productions from stars to stories.

The films will be made on location amidst the splendor of the west's most scenic backgrounds, they will have more "real action" than most of today's current Westerns. The three stars being readied for the roles fill the bill to a "T." Don Crabtree as Stony Brooke, John Conant as Tucson Smith and Buddy Farnan as Lullaby Joslin. All are new to Western films, but not to the West or the public. 32-year-old Don Crabtree, is a real Texas cowboy who performs horse tricks and action stunts. His acting talent and baritone voice have won him great acclaim as one of the leads in Broadway's "Destry Rides Again." Don also played the main role while Andy Griffith was out of the show. 35-year-old John Conant can now be seen in Broadway's "Music Man." He has starred as Curley in "Oklahoma" and has received rave notices for his serious acting in many dramatic plays—*i.e.*: "Witness for the Prosecution." In addition to having a fine baritone voice, he is well fitted for the role of Tucson being a top athlete. 26-year-old Buddy Farnan is quite a treasure chest of entertainment. He has scored internationally as a first rate actor, comedian, magician, ventriloquist and night club star. Original Mesquiteer, Max Terhune, is Buddy's good friend and helped him get started some years back. A 15 minute non-commercial Western for the industry was shot last October showing these three stars in action. Regular production should be on the way soon.

The great trio's place as one of the nation's favorites has encouraged the stalwart three to ride again. Long live The Three Mesquiteers! **END**

MOVIE PREVUE

FLAMING STAR

For his second picture since his release from the Army, Elvis Presley, the idol of the teen-agers, has returned to the type in which he made his movie debut in 1956-a Western! Now his newest is FLAMING STAR, a 20th Century-Fox production in CinemaScope and DeLuxe Color. Here Elvis fulfills the promise of four years ago. Gone is the side-burned, convulsive youth, and in place is a new, more mature, performer who is well on his way to becoming a top contender for dramatic honors!

FLAMING STAR deals with the white Indian warfare in the West Texas of the 1870's and the story begins as Pacer (ELVIS PRESLEY) and Clint (STEVE FORREST) Burton arrive at their parents' ranch house where a surprise birthday party is held for Clint. In addition to the boys' parents, Neddy (DOLORES DEL RIO) and Sam (JOHN McINTIRE), several young neighbors are present, including Tom and Will Howard, their sister Dorothy and Roz Pierce (BARBARA EDEN), Clint's girl. Riding home after the shindig, the Howards are ambushed and killed by a marauding band of Kiowa Indians, led by Chief Buffalo Horn (RUDOLPH ACOSTA). Clint and Pacer learn of this several days later, when they ride into the Crossing, a local trading center for ammunition. Here the townspeople, incensed by Roz' father, Dred Pierce (KARL SWENSON), accuse the Burtons of being spared the same fate because of Indian blood in the family. (After Clint's mother died, his father married Neddy, a full-blooded Kiowa who is Pacer's mother.) Clint and Pacer take their ammunition and return home.

That night, a posse of villagers led by Dred Pierce, rides out to the Burton ranch, intent upon extracting a declaration from the Burtons as to which side they are on—the whites or the Indians. The question is put so insultingly though, with frequent references to Neddy as a "Kiowa squaw", that Clint shoots one man in the shoulder. The posse rides off, leaving the Burtons now squarely in the middle!

In these sequence photos, Elvis shows his recent Army training has stood him in good stead, as he laces into baddie who's insulted his screen mother!

Pacer's savage fury

The next day, while rounding up cattle the posse had maliciously scattered the night before, Pa Burton tells Clint that he won't be reproached by other members of the family if he joins the whites. "There ain't but one side now," Clint replies. "You and Ma and Pacer and me." That night, two trappers stop at the ranch, claiming to have been driven out of the hills by Kiowas. Pacer, who has stayed behind to protect his mother, lets them in and Neddy feeds them. When Pacer steps out for a moment, the men make advances to Neddy, and she hits one with a ladle. Pacer returns and beats them with all the fury of an untamed savage.

Next morning, Buffalo Horn and a warrior escort arrive at the ranch, wanting Pacer to join his band. He thinks that if Pacer deserts his father's people, it will be strong medicine against the whites. Pacer demurs, and Buffalo Horn angrily declares that he will next burn the Burton property. Pacer and his mother then decide to go to the Indian encampment, she thinking to talk her people out of a war that will bring disaster to both sides. Once there, she finds that her relatives all reject her because of her marriage to a white man.

the Black Star of Death

Leaving for home in the company of Two Moons (PERRY LOPEZ), a young brave and childhood friend of Pacer, all three are attacked by a man firing from behind a rock. It is Will Howard, who has somehow managed to escape the massacre, and, maddened with wounds and burns, has been roaming the countryside, obsessed with vengeance. Howard kills Two Moons, seriously wounds Neddy and dies himself in the process. Neddy tells Pacer, "I can feel the Kiowa Star close to me—the Black Star of Death."

Pa and Clint ride up and, together with Pacer, manage to get the dying Neddy home. Clint and Pacer then go to the Crossing for Doc Phillips (FORD RAINEY), but the villagers refuse to let him make the call. Pretending to ride off, Pacer sneaks around to the back of Doc's house and seizes his child, using her as a hostage to

Elvis saves the life of his wounded half-brother (Steve Forrest) and enables him to escape the marauding Kiowas in blood-curdling climax of FLAMING STAR!

force Doc to accompany them. They arrive at the ranch too late, however, as Neddy is dead. Pacer, in his grief, puts a curse on all the whites who delayed the doctor. Attempting to kill the Doc, Pacer fights with Clint and a rift widens between them. Renouncing the whites, Pacer leaves the ranch and goes to the Indian camp to join his mother's people. He agrees to ride with Buffalo Horn in a raid on the Crossing, after extracting a promise that his father's place will be spared.

Pacer, too, sees "Star"

Buffalo Horn does not keep his word and Pa Burton is ambushed. During the fighting Clint is wounded and Pacer helps him escape, hiding him from the Indians. Whatever their differences, they are brothers! Putting the wounded Clint on a horse headed for the Crossing, Pacer stays behind to defend the Burton ranch against the Kiowas. Next morning, Clint, having arrived at the Crossing and been cared for by Roz the night before, attempts to return to the ranch to aid Pacer. But just then, Pacer, mortally wounded, rides toward him saying, "Don't try to help me. I've been killed already—just stubborn about dying." He, too, has seen the Kiowa Black Star of death and must ride into the hills to meet it!

Anguished, Clint turns on Roz and refuses to stay in the Crossing. Returning to the ranch, he sets fire to it and is preparing to leave, when Roz arrives offering a plea for better understanding between whites and Indians. The Kiowas have gone back to their villages now, she says, and "stupidity must end somewhere." At last Clint de-

Barbara Eden is helpless to prevent the clash between to all white men following the death of his mother.

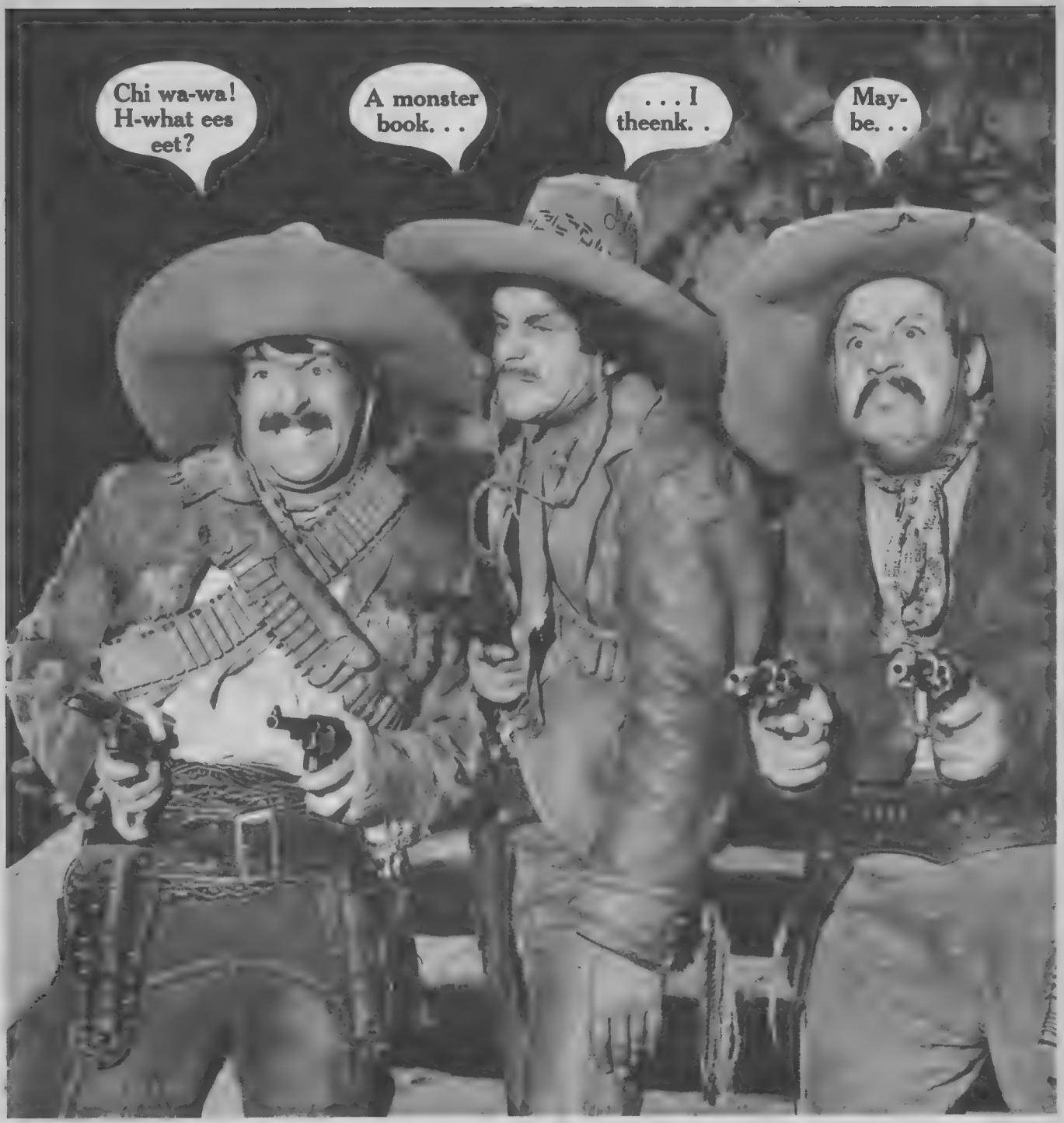
Elvis and Steve, when Elvis renounces his kinship

Arriving at the Indian camp, Elvis agrees to join Chief Buffalo Horn's (Rudolph Acosta) band, and in so doing, wreak vengeance on the Whites!

clares that "I am Pacer's brother, and never expect more or less of me than you would of him. If you can accept me on these terms —then maybe there is hope."

Elvis never better

FLAMING STAR promises to top all Presley pictures to date and with Elvis crooning four Western songs in the film, he could easily become the singing cowboy star of the 60's. Dramatically he has never been better. With each film, Elvis continues to answer the critics who predicted he had no future in motion pictures. Famed director Michael Curtiz, who guided Elvis through his melodramatic pre-Army feature KING CREOLE, is convinced that someday Elvis will be accepted as an actor of stature. And this is not one man's opinion. Fellow actors and film reviewers everywhere are being forced to admit that this boy can act when he wants to. Regardless of the type of films he chooses to make, one thing is certain— Elvis Presley will be on the Hollywood scene for many years to come! **END**



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an exclusive WILDEST WESTERNS interview

The man who has created the roles of screen favorites which are the idols of millions. He is a bright light that has illuminated the nation through the magic of the motion picture. His is the story of success achieved the hard way, but well deserved.

THE SAGA OF BOB LIVINGSTON

Bob Livingston was born Robert E. Randall on December 9, 1908 in Quincy Illinois. His theatrical name Livingston comes from his mother's side of the family; Bob is actually a descendant of THE Robert Livingston, signer of the Declaration of Independence, who was responsible for negotiating the purchase of Louisiana by the United States. Bob's late father Edgar Randall was an Associated Press editor and famous for his "Say Bill" columns of World War I. Clarena Meyers, Bob's mother, is also a well known writer. When he was 12 his family moved from Illinois to Glendale, California, where Bob attended High School and College. At an early age he was off on real life adventures rivaling many of his screen roles.

Bob spent time at a South Dakota ranch as a real cowhand after having been a boxing and football college champ. From the ranch he shipped out as a seaman on a steamer that ran between San Pedro, Calif., and Alaska. This soon became routine so Bob went on to jobs as a lumberjack in British Columbia and constructing roads in California. After all that physical work Bob went back to some mental exercise. He had majored in English Literature in school, so this coupled with his family's literary background led him to journalism.

Sig Rumann feels the flaming fury of Zorro as the unmasked Bob Livingston seeks revenge.

THE EAGLE clings for his life high above the courtyard below.

Bob worked as a reporter on The Los Angeles Daily News for awhile. One of his assignments was to cover the shows put on by the famous Pasadena Community Playhouse. While reporting the activities there, Bob was spotted by theatrical scouts and so his acting career began. He then appeared in quite a few theatrical productions in addition to the directorial jobs which he enjoyed.

a sensation on screen

In 1929 Universal was scouting around for handsome young men for their "Collegians" series, so Bob then played his first film roles. In 1930 he played larger co-star parts in Tiffany's "Borrowed Wives" and "Sunny Skies," but it wasn't until 1933 that MGM spotted him. Seeing his good looks they signed him right away to play opposite Joan Crawford. He stayed at MGM three years and was considered one of their top "up and coming" young leading men. Bob Livingston spent a year coaching pal Robert Taylor, who at that time had no previous acting experience. Taylor went on to bigger roles and so did Bob in films like 1935's "MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY."

the road to action

1936 saw Bob Livingston considered next in line for the big MGM push into national stardom and perhaps "Camille" with Garbo. However, Bob was impatient and decided not to wait at MGM. He took a contract the new Republic Studios offered him to play action roles. Bob's resemblance to silent screen idol Rudolph Valentino was quite prominent in 1936, so he was hailed as "the boy with the Valentine profile." Republic decided to use this to good advantage and starred Bob as "The Eagle" in "The Vigilantes are Coming" a remake of Valentino's silent epic 1925's "The Eagle." The response to dashing Bob Livingston was tremendous. Here was all the action and athletic ability he had coupled with his acting skills in a real winner. The success of this film led Republic to star Bob in their first Color production. It was 1936's "The Bold Caballero." Bob won the heroine and blazed away as the talkies' first dashing Zorro. He now had quite a fan following which combined with his Three Mesquiteers films (see Mesquiteers article on page 34) really put Bob on top.

the first Lone Ranger

Bob Livingston takes Miles Osborne by surprise in episode 11 of "THE VIGILANTES ARE COMING."

Bob Livingston was now in demand everywhere so Republic decided to put his talents to good use in a wide variety of films. Some of his non-western smashes were—"Larceny on the Air" (1937), "The Night Hawk" (1937), "Arson Racket Squad" (1938), "Ladies in Distress" (1938) and "Federal Manhunt" (1939). These films boosted Bob's popularity but Western fans demanded him to get back to the range. To answer this the studio producers starred him in 1939 as the first real screen Lone Ranger in "The Lone Ranger Rides Again." After the public viewed this adventure classic there was no way to stop Bob from turning on the thrills in 14 more Three Mesquiteers Westerns. This brought his total to 29 of these famous films. After finishing up his first contract at Republic in 1942, Bob decided to try his hand at a different type of Western role. Producers Releasing Corp. agreed with this idea and signed him for a series of Westerns in which he was starred as The Lone Rider. His comedy sidekick was favorite Al "Fuzzy" St. John. After the great response to these films Republic realized how important Bob was to their productions. So they quickly resigned him for a whole batch of new starring films.

everyone's favorite daredevil

Bob Livingston stands out as an actor who always received wonderful reviews from movie critics everywhere—*New York Daily News*—"He's much better than most screen juveniles on the big lots." *New York Mirror* —". . . his most difficult part to date, yet

Bob and Big Boy Williams surprise the baddies with their knife throwing act.

"The bank's closed," Bob and Fuzzy really mean it in 1943's "WOLVES OF THE RANGE."

Livingston makes it sound easy." *Motion Picture Exhibitor*—"Robert Livingston celebrates his return to The Three Mesquiteers by whipping through this satisfactory outdoor adventure in grand style." Bob is known not only for his good looks, writing and acting abilities but also for his daredevil courage. He constantly insisted on taking risks and chances himself. He rode wild horses, climbed down mountainsides while fighting, took part in tremendous fights and outrode most of the other players on the lots in some of the screen's most spectacular riding action. In 1937's "Trigger Trio" daredevil Bob made a high dive off a bridge and was badly injured on rocks below. Ralph Byrd replaced him in that Mesquiteer film, but Bob was back on the range four months before his doctors expected him to leave his hospital bed.

a hero in many roles

In the mid 1940's he captivated theatre audiences with Western action in "The Laramie Trail" (1944), "Beneath Western Skies" (1944), "Pride of the Plains" (1944), the epic "The Big Bonanza" (1945), "The Undercover Woman" (1946) and many others. He also established himself as one of the screen's most versatile male stars in such major starring films as "Goodnight Sweetheart" (1944), "Pistol Packin' Mamma" (1944), "Tell it to a Star" (1945), "Valley of the Zombies" (1946), "Daredevils of the Clouds" (1948) etc.

well known brother

In the midst of all these successes Bob's career had one of its darkest moments. In 1945 his brother, popular Western star, Jack Randall, was killed in an accident during the filming of "The Royal Mounted Rides Again" at Universal. Jack was one of the leading Western stars of the day and was a top athletic star in such films as "Riders of the Dawn," "Overland Mail" and "Across the Plains." He was also renowned as a famous baritone on stage, screen and in many night club appearances. After the completion of his second Republic contract Bob Livingston played some two-fisted roles with pal Gene Autry and then left the acting end of pictures for greener pastures in business.

This rare photo from Bob Livingston's private collection shows him as the original Lone Ranger "unmasked" with Chief "Tonto" Thundercloud.

Bob saved his studio money by doing double duty as hero and villain in 1940's "ROCKY MOUNTAIN RANGERS."

Famous villain Fred Kohler thinks he has bested THE EAGLE . . . surprises are certainly due him!

Bob speaks to you

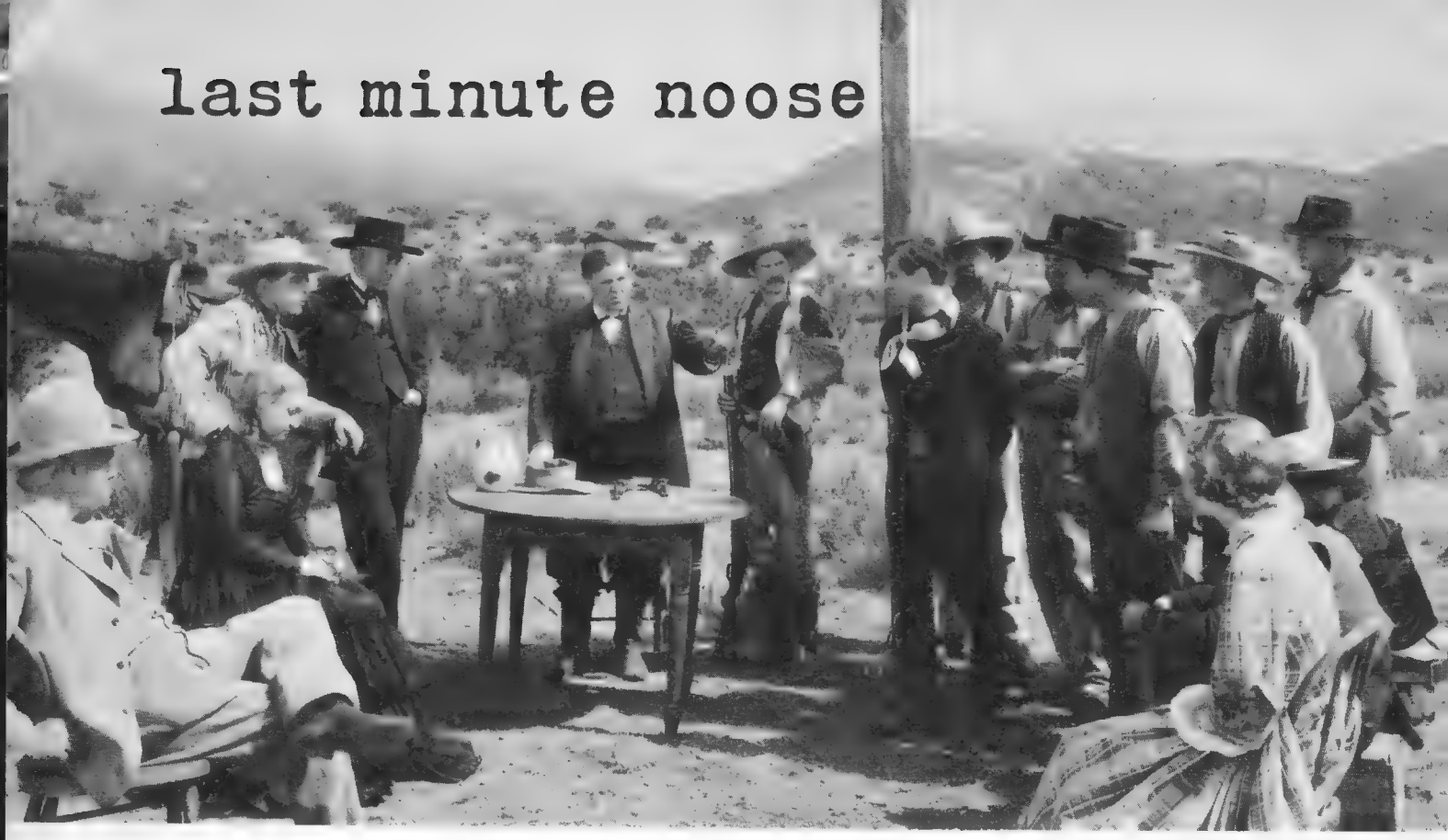
Today, after being coaxed back to the studios by his many fans, Bob is set to direct as well as act in many terrific new western productions. Wildest Westerns' west coast correspondents recently chatted with him in Hollywood about his many film adventures. They found Bob to be as smiling and friendly in person as he is on the screen. He enjoys joking about the way many producers, some years back, didn't know whether to star him in Westerns or romantic dramas. "So," says Bob, "they had me playing The Lone Ranger and a screen lover at the same time." Bob, being a writer and keeping up with the latest literature, has always been very critical of poorly written scripts. Bob told our reporter—"At times I just couldn't stand going through a scene with some of that dialogue they had prepared for me." Bob went on to tell how he surprised everyone on the set with the changes he made in the scene. In this manner Bob has created some of the most interesting and humorous scenes in otherwise ordinary films. The directors were very amused by his scenes, so they were usually quite glad to leave them in the film.

on the set with Wayne

Bob recalls his many stunts in films by saying, "I still have the battle scars to prove that I did them. Very few actors from those rugged days are still in front of the cameras. A few months ago, I and my 11-year-old son Addison were the guests of my old friend, Duke (John Wayne) on the set of 20th Century Fox's "North to Alaska." Duke told me he was really amazed at the athletic build I have kept all these years. But you can't beat Wayne today when it comes to rugged action." When asked how he likes Wildest Westerns, Bob replied: "I and my son have enjoyed all the issues to date. I certainly liked the No. 3 issue for its good action scenes and interesting articles. I also enjoyed being featured there as the screen's leading masked rider." A generous comment from a very likeable actor who carries on the movies' best traditions today. All our best goes with him in whatever he does. **END**

Bob and Carleton Young fight to the death in exciting highlight from 1938's "HEROES OF THE HILLS."

last minute noose



COWBOY COLLEGE CURRICULUM

With so many TV oaters now being shot in Hollywood, NBC has started "The Action Academy," which offers a six-week course for actors and actresses interested in learning the mechanics of stunt work. Sample courses: Elementary Street-Brawling, Horsemanship, Seminars in Falling Off Cliffs, and Facial Expressions.

* * *

DON KEEPS BUSY

Former Western star Don "Red" Barry, for years a top name at Republic, is now knee-deep in television activity. He is currently essaying a running role as Lt. Snedigar in Warners' private-eye series, SURFSIDE 6, as well as keeping his spurs oiled on such shows as RAWHIDE, BAT MASTERSON, MAVERICK and LARAMIE.

* * *

PUT NO STOCK IN RAWHIDE

Contrary to the practice adopted by most producers, of using a "stock shot" (a scene from an old movie) when the script calls for a herd of cattle, when you see such a scene on RAWHIDE, it's the real thing! Liberally budgeted, the company shoots all their sequences with a big herd at Nogales, Arizona. A smaller herd is maintained at Canejo, about 45 miles from Hollywood, for the purpose of matching shots.

* * *

REX RIDES AGAIN

Rex Bell, cowboy star of the 30's, is returning to films with a role in MISFITS, the Clark Gable-Marilyn Monroe starrer. It's the first picture in several years for Bell, now the Lieutenant Governor of Nevada.

* * *

HOOT IN STITCHES

Another headliner of bygone days, Hoot Gibson, recently recuperated from several major operations. Hoot has worked as a Las Vegas hotel "greeter" during the past few years and also played supporting roles in films, THE HORSE SOLDIERS and OCEAN'S 11.

* * *

STARS MEG OWN SERIES

The new trend of stars directing their own shows is now invading the Western TV field, with Richard Boone set to direct several segments of HAVE GUN, WILL TRAVEL and Dennis "Chester" Weaver, ditto on GUNSMOKE this season.

A HAZARDOUS HOBBY

Former stuntman Robert Fuller, one of the stars on NBC's hour-long LARAMIE series, still works out regularly with pals Chuck Courtney and Jerry Somers. They are also stuntmen and together the three practice fights, horse falls and the like, each trying to see how dangerous he can make it appear, without getting himself killed!

* * *

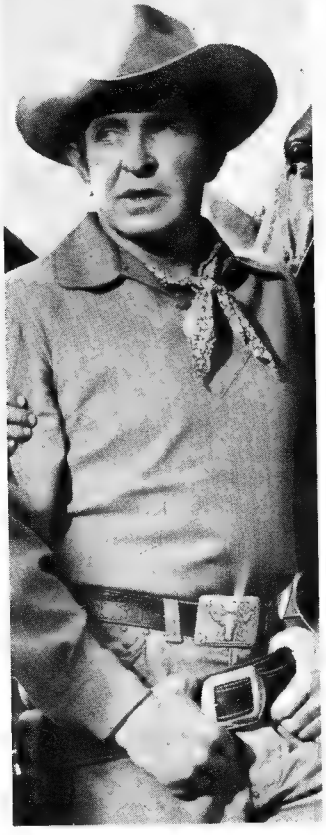
TEXAS DOUBLE DUTY

The Bracketville, Texas, sets built for the filming of John Wayne's multi-million dollar production, THE ALAMO, were re-used by John Ford in his latest frontier saga, TWO RODE TOGETHER. Richard Widmark and James Stewart star in this Columbia release.

* * *

NEWS FOR CHAPTER FANS

With no new serials being made these days, Columbia Pictures is attempting to fill this gap in theatre programming by re-issuing some of its oldies. Currently being resurrected is SON OF GERONIMO, starring Clay "Lone Ranger" Moore with Tommy Farrell.



BATTLING BOB IN ACTION

THE LEGEND OF BILLY THE KID, new TV series spotlighting old Western favorite Bob Steele, seems to have been shelved, temporarily at least. This hasn't stopped Bob, though, who in the meantime, is sparking episodes of other shows such as NATIONAL VELVET. Last season, Bob beat Rory Calhoun to the draw on a "TEXAN" chapter, but it was a momentary victory, as "Bill Longley's" script writers had him get in a second, and better, shot.

McCOY COMPLETES CIRCUS CIRCUIT

Colonel Tim McCoy, one of the Western immortals, recently completed his third season as star attraction with Carson & Barnes Circus. McCoy, who has done little picture work in recent years, says he is content to tour with circuses for the rest of his life.

CLINT "EGGHEAD" WALKER

Brawny Clint Walker a best-selling author? It's possible! During the season he was on suspension from CHEYENNE, Clint took his family on a prospecting trip, an account of which he has put between covers as "Prospecting for a Living."

* * *

BAD GUY NOW GOOD GUY

Screen villainy has paid off handsomely for Barton MacLane, now the hero of NBC's THE OUTLAWS. A vet of thirty years in the film medium, Bart lives on a large estate in one of the most expensive residential areas in Los Angeles. Incidentally, the role of "U.S. Marshal Frank Caine," played by MacLane on OUTLAW, is actually based on Evett Dumas Nix, the first U.S. Marshal in the Oklahoma Territory in 1893. The name was changed because Nix's descendants wouldn't grant permission for its use on TV.

* * *

IT'S DANIEL'S TURN NOW

In a recent interview, Walt Disney disclosed that the DAVY CROCKETT craze of six years ago might just as easily have been one for DANIEL BOONE! Having both properties lined up at the time, Walt decided to go ahead with DAVY first. The correctness of this decision is attested by the millions of coonskin caps gathering dust in closets everywhere. BOONE is now high on this season's schedule, however, and is running close to Disney's prime Western series, TEXAS JOHN SLAUGHTER, in audience popularity.

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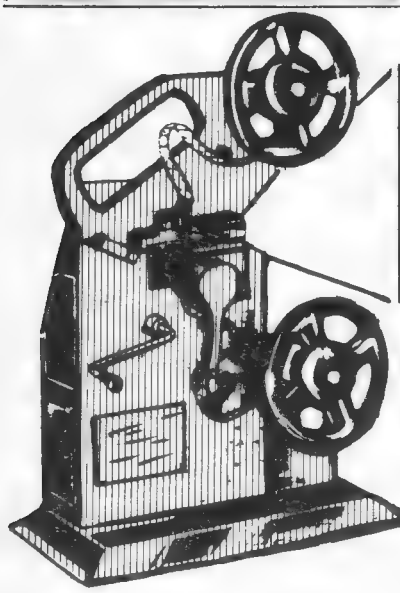

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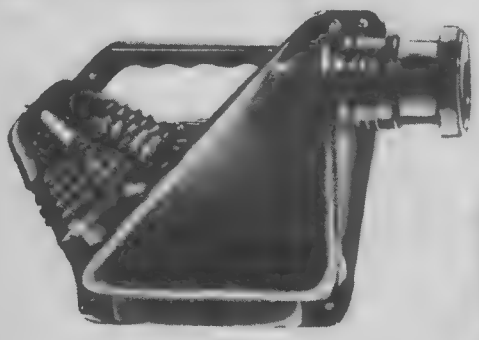

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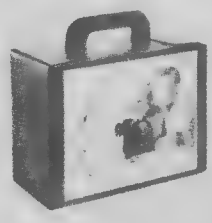

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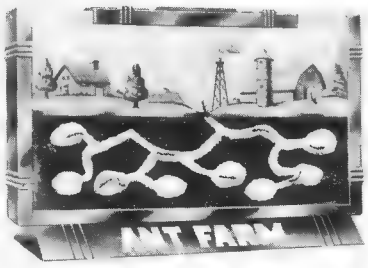

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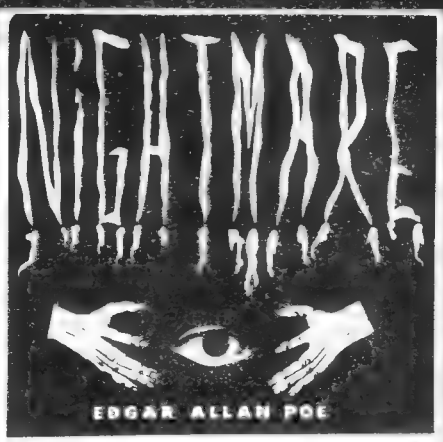

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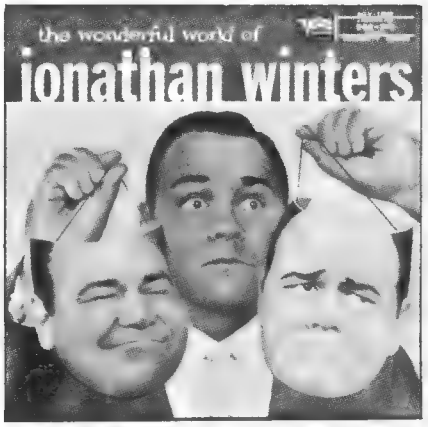

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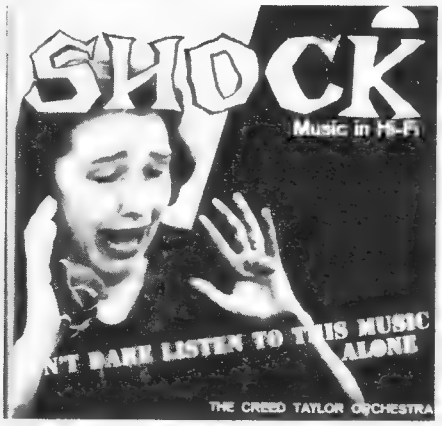

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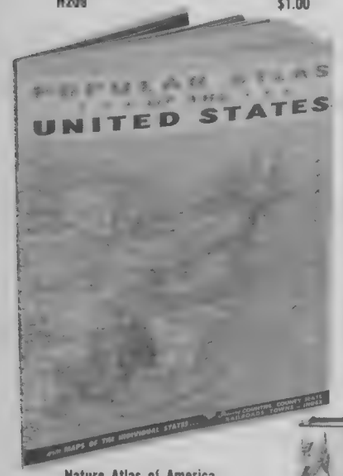

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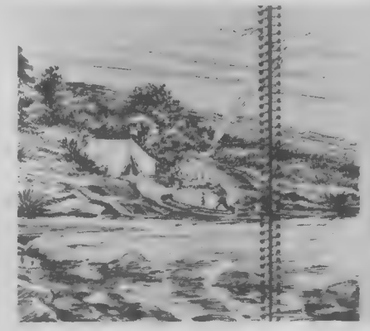

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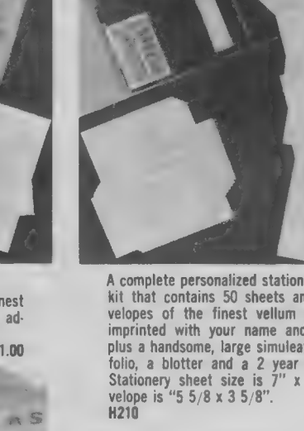

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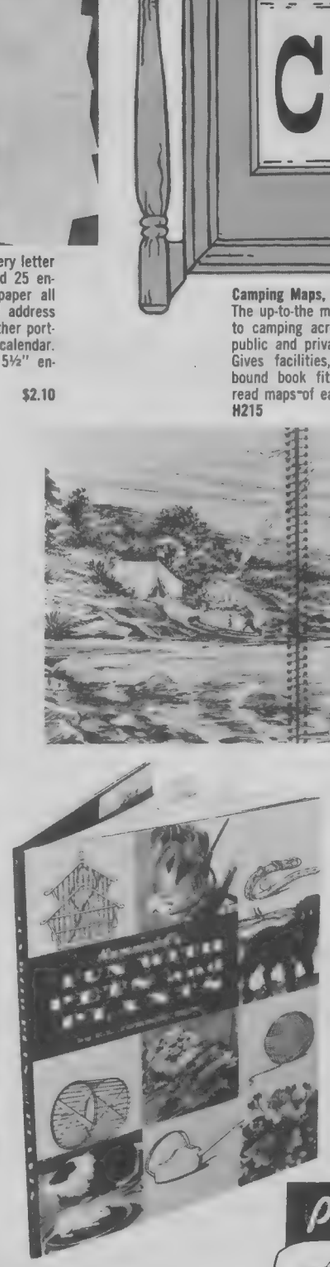

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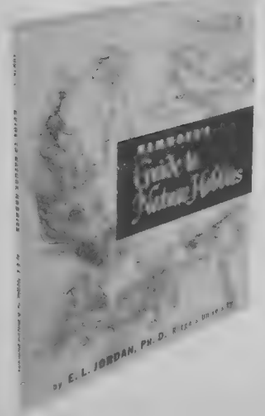

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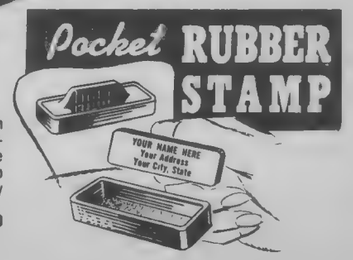

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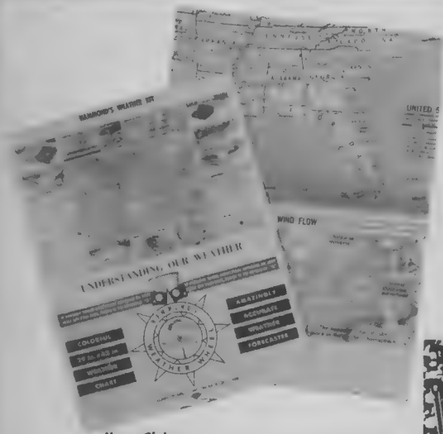

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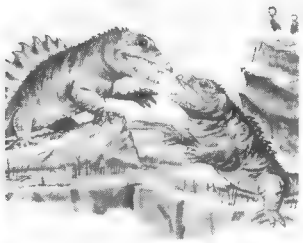
Dracula, The Wolf Man, and even The Invisible Man join forces in this comedy shocker! Watch the daffy chain-reaction of fun as somebody dreams up the idea of using Costello's "brain" for the monster.

BATTLE OF THE GIANTS



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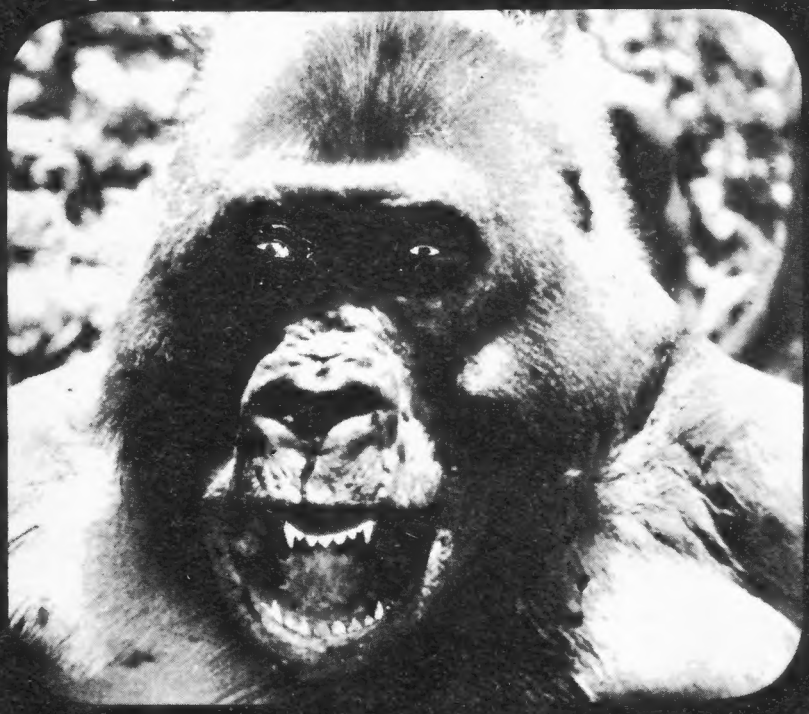
KILLER GORILLA on film



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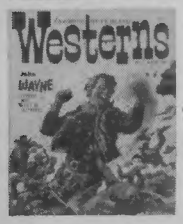

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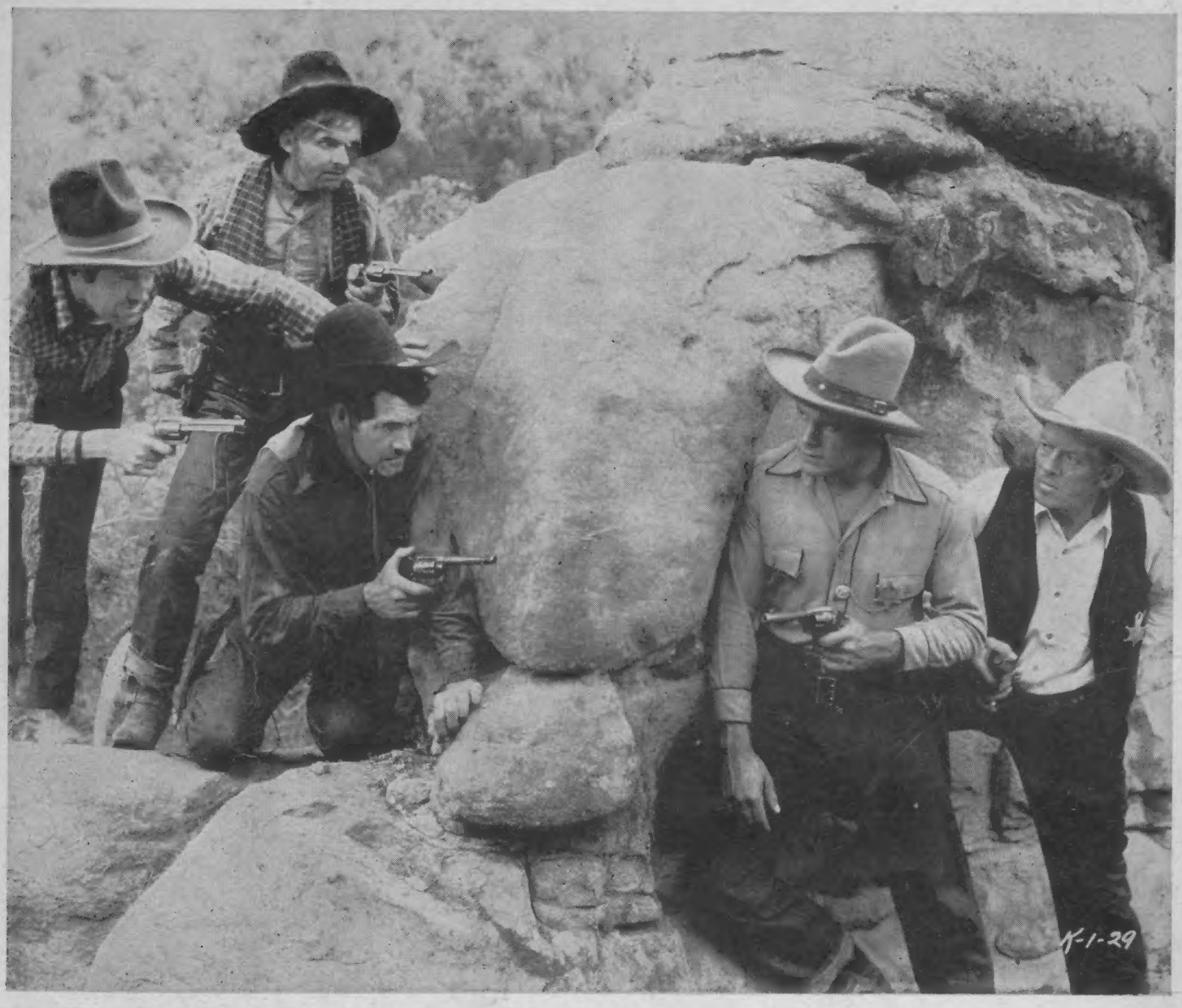

EXCITEMENT

RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER AND INSIDE EVERY PAGE OF THIS ISSUE OF WILDEST WESTERNS-FEATURING THE HISTORY OF THE 3 MESQUITEERS; NICK (JOHNNY YUMA) ADAMS, TV's REBEL; A PICTURE HISTORY OF WESTERN STUNTMEN; THE FRONTIER COMES ALIVE AGAIN THROUGH THE EYE OF THE MOTION PICTURE CAMERA — PAST and PRESENT!